

MAY 30 2002

THE BAPTIST

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Executive Committee fills BSU vacancies

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, meeting at the Baptist Building in Jackson on May 16, approved the hiring of three Baptist Student Union (BSU) directors and the replacement of three board members.

Heidi L. Cheatham is the new BSU director at Southwest Community College in Summit, effective June 1. She holds a master of divinity degree ('01) from Beeson Divinity School (affiliated with Samford University) in Birmingham and a bachelor of social work degree ('97) from Mississippi College in Clinton.

Cheatham served as associate BSU director at MC for five months, from January-May 1998, and as interim BSU director at MC for five months, from August-December 1998. She also served two stints as a college ministry intern: August 1995-December 1996 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; and May-December 1999 at Hunter Street Church in Birmingham.

In 1995, she was a Mississippi BSU student summer missionary to Hawaii. In 1996, she served as an English teacher in China for the International Service Corps, a program associated with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

While a student at Mississippi College, she was inducted into the international honor society for social sciences, the honor society for social work, and Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

Cheatham replaces long-time BSU director Ed Abel, who resigned to pursue a new ministry role.

Frank Porter is the new BSU director at Jones Junior College in Ellisville. He holds a master of divinity degree ('89) from New Orleans Seminary; a bachelor of arts degree ('87, summa cum laude) from Mississippi State University in Starkville; and an associate of arts degree ('85) from Jones Junior College.

Porter goes to Jones Junior College from Northwest

Community College in Senatobia, where he has served as BSU director since January 1996. Prior to that, he was director of Baptist student ministries at Highline Community College in Des Moines, Wash., from August 1994-December 1995.

He also served as associate BSU director of Jones Junior College from August 1987-May 1994. He was a Mississippi BSU student summer missionary to Korea in 1987; Germany in 1986; and the Pacific Northwest in 1985. He has participated in a number of other missions opportunities, including Guyana in 1998 and 2000; Ukraine in March and July 1999; several domestic destinations; and a Discovery Trip to Indonesia with the International Mission Board in 2000. He is a member of four honor societies.

Porter replaces Larry Goff, who died of cancer earlier this year.

Rea Trim is the new BSU director at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville. She holds a master of divinity degree in Christian education ('95) from

New Orleans Seminary, and a bachelor of science degree in educational psychology ('91) from Mississippi State University.

She served as activities director for the Adult Day Care Center at Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex in Texas from July 2000-August 2001. Prior to that, she was

Spokane area metro director for BSU in Spokane, Wa., from August 1998-June 2000; BSU ministries director at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Wash., from September 1996-June 2000; and BSU intern at Georgia College in Milledgeville, Ga., from September 1995-June 1996.

She has also served as day camp director for LifeWay Conference Center at Ridgecrest, N.C.; Home Mission Board-appointed children's intern at Carver Baptist Center in New Orleans; program director at Camp Garaywa in Clinton; and BSU intern at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Trim replaces Mo Baker, who left earlier this year to become

BSU director at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

The 33 BSUs located on public and private college and university campuses around Mississippi are supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

The Executive Committee also approved three new members to serve on the convention board:

• Edgar Lee Wright, pastor of Morgantown Church, Natchez, as the Adams Association representative. He replaces Don Womble, who resigned the pastorate of Cliff Temple Church and moved out of the area. His term will expire in 2004.

• Dale Authement, pastor of Topeka Church, Jayess, as the Lawrence Association representative. He replaces David Williams, who resigned the pastorate of New Hope Church to accept the call to Temple Church, Jackson Association. His term expires in 2003.

• Jimmy Newman, member of Valley Park Church, Valley Park, as the Sharkey-Issaquena Association representative. He replaces Dennis Salley, who resigned the pastorate of Valley Park Church to accept the call to Calvary Church, Oxford.

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 23, 2002

VOL. 126

No. 16

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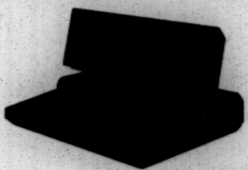
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VOLUME 126 NUMBER 16  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

## If it's not broken...

**H**uman beings have a ubiquitous tendency to want to fix everything, whether it needs to be fixed or not. Thus arose from that tendency the dependable old saw, "If it's not broken, don't fix it." Unfortunately, we all have to be reminded of that good advice from time to time.

Take AOL Time Warner, Inc., the giant company formed from the history-making, multi-billion dollar merger of America Online, the internet services provider, and Time Warner, the entertainment conglomerate formed several years earlier by the merger of Time, Inc., and Warner Brothers.

Both AOL and Time Warner were doing pretty well before the merger, with AOL buying its way to a virtual monopoly on the internet and Time Warner swallowing such big fish as Ted Turner's electronic media empire in Atlanta. Then the two companies met and fell in love, in a business sense. It was a marriage made in corporate heaven.

Every business era has its key concept. Remember vertical integration? How about cross-pollination? Well, the key word around the time of the AOL Time Warner merger was "synergy," meaning the parts and parcels of the new combined AOL Time Warner empire would draw strength from each other.

Things seemed to be going pretty well inside the new megalith until — you guessed it — someone decided to fix something that wasn't broken. Down came an order from the ivory tower that every attempt at electronic communication everywhere in the vast AOL Time Warner system would be made through AOL's existing e-mail system.

Never mind the millions upon millions of dollars spent on software and equipment tailored to a division's specific pre-merger needs — needs that resulted in many disparate but efficient software and computer systems. Never mind that such a demanding task had not been tested beforehand. It was going to work. It had to work.

It didn't work. As chronicled in the March 22 edition of The Wall Street Journal, the order was an uninformed, abysmal failure from which the company is still struggling to recover:

In a humbling reversal, AOL Time Warner Inc., is retreating from a top-level directive that required the divisions of the old Time Warner to convert to the e-mail system based on AOL software and run by American Online's giant public server computers in Virginia...

(M)anagement got months of complaints from both senior and junior executives in the divisions involved, who said the e-mail system, initially designed for consumers, wasn't appropriate for business use. The e-mail software frequently crashed, staffers weren't able to send messages with large attachments, they were often kicked off line without warning, and if they tried to send messages to large groups of users they were labeled as spammers and kicked off the system. Sometimes, e-mails were just plain lost in the AOL etherworld and never found.

Norman Pearlstine, the editor-in-chief of Time's many magazines, found that AOL's system simply lost crucial final page proofs at the worst possible times for many of the magazines for which he was responsible.

Executives at Warner Music became so frustrated that they ordered their employees to follow up important e-mails with time-consuming telephone calls, just to be sure the e-mail was received. After weeks of aggravation, Warner Brothers Studios chief Barry Meyer ordered employees in his division to drop AOL and return to the preexisting systems that actually worked.

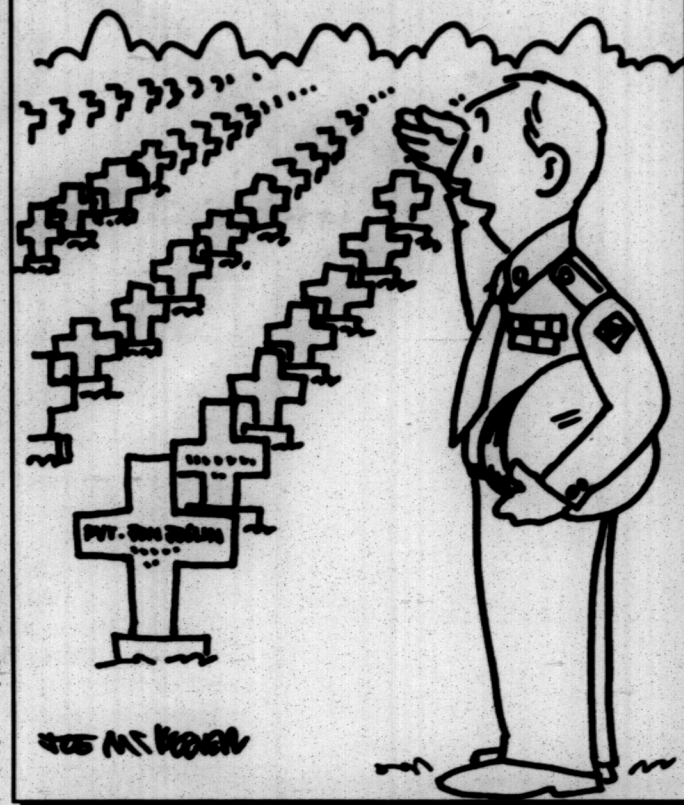
Employees throughout the company began to mock AOL's popular advertising slogan, "So easy to use, no wonder it's number one!"

AOL's humiliation was sealed. The order soon went out that the various divisions could return to whatever prior system met their needs. Reeling from that poor decision and apparently many others, AOL Time Warner recently reported the steepest quarterly loss in American business history — 54 billion dollars.

It wasn't broken in the first place, but they were determined to fix it anyway.

Buried among the many morals of the

"THANK YOU FOR HELPING AMERICA TO BE FREE AND SAFE."



MEMORIAL DAY • MAY 27, 2002

AOL Time Warner debacle is a lesson for believers, and it's this: the timeless message of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18-20) isn't broken even after 2,000 years, and we'd best try not to fix it.

To be sure, many folks down through the ages have tried to fix it by adding or taking away different ideas and concepts, but it has survived all attempts at repair. Many people today would like to mold the message to fit their personal preferences, but it won't work. They too will discover that it's tamper-proof.

The message is still as fresh and contemporary as it was when spoken by Christ himself — there are lost people out there, and he's leaving it up to us to help bring everyone in Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Don't fix it; it's not broken. Just take it and use it to save our unsaved world.

## GUEST OPINION:

### *Pastor: a position of integrity, trust*

By Frank Lay, pastor  
Springfield Church, Morton

**A**s an avid reader, I enjoy looking for books at bargain prices. Recently I had been looking for the book, *Power in the Pulpit*, by Jerry Vines and Jim Shaddix, and found it at LifeWay Christian Store in Jackson. The book was listed at \$29.99 and though it was a bit expensive, I decided to purchase it anyway. After all, I could get 20% off with my LifeWay minister's discount card.

However, upon opening the book I discovered that it had been used because of a large number of underlined passages. When I showed the book to the manager, he offered to sell it to me at a 75% discount. Lucky me! I was able to purchase that \$29.99 book for only \$7.50. What a bargain!

Driving home, however, I became overwhelmed with sadness because I knew that particular book is currently being used as a textbook on preaching at the seminary. Someone had purchased it, used it, underlined it, and then taken it back to Lifeway for a refund.

Who was that someone? I really can't say, for he did not sign his name. I can only assume that it must have been a preacher or at least a seminary student, for who else would purchase a textbook on preaching? The good folks at LifeWay trusted that individual, gave his money back, and innocently placed the book back on the shelf.

Yes, I was able to purchase a good book on preaching for only \$7.50, but the sadness I feel in knowing that a fellow preacher had stolen the book from LifeWay prevents me

from being overjoyed with my bargain buy.

My preacher brother certainly would not have thought of his act as stealing, for after all he was not shoplifting. Yet his act of returning a used book was exactly the same thing. He paid for the book, used it, and then took it back for a refund.

Those of us who are in the Christian ministry are there because we believe that we have received a divine call to be there. With that call comes a sacred trust, not only to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ but also to purity of life

This means that we are to faithfully preach and teach the Word of God to our people, and that we are to live above reproach in the world.

Some people may say, "But it's no worse for a preacher to sin than for a layperson." I have to disagree with that statement because it is worse when a minister falls into sin. To be sure, sin is sin regardless of who commits it. However, ministers must be held to a higher standard because when they fall into immorality, it is the violation of a sacred trust given to him by the Lord. Moreover, the influence of the minister is far-reaching and can be devastating to many lives.

I wonder how the people at LifeWay will feel when they see that minister in the store again.

The call to ministry is a call to integrity. It is interesting that the publisher's logo on the book says, "MOODY: The Name You Can Trust."

It is sad that there is at least one minister out there that cannot be trusted.



# NAMB commissions 46 new missionaries

TACOMA, Wash. (BP) — The diversity of Southern Baptists was exemplified May 5 when Tacoma First Church hosted the commissioning service for 46 North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries. The Tacoma church had the honor of being the first ethnic church to host a NAMB commissioning service.

"Thank you. Thank you. Thank you," Robert E. Reccord, NAMB president, said as he dipped his head slightly to the Korean congregation, the pastor, and choir. "This is the first time in history a commissioning service has been held in an ethnic congregation."

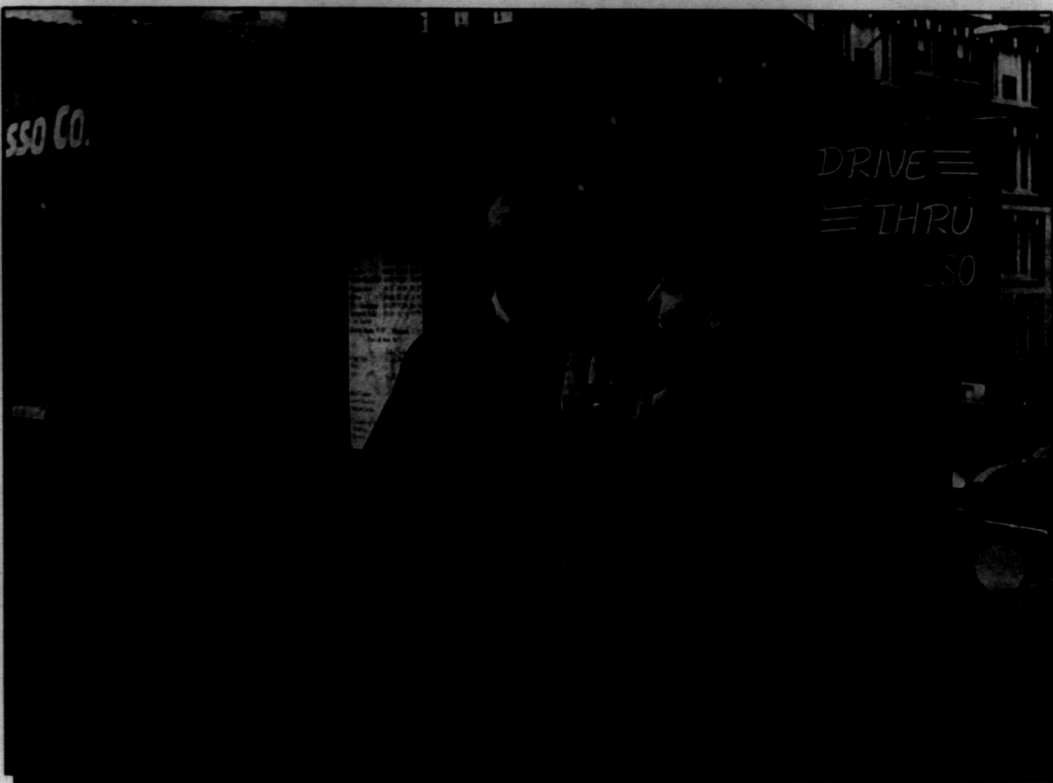
Pastor Chang Sun Moon and music director, Heung Yoo, humbly acknowledged the accolades given to them and the congregation, who hosted the special worship and celebration service May 5.

"We were honored to sing for the service," Yoo said. "Our congregation is a mixture of many people — Koreans, Anglos, Blacks — we are all Americans."

The American state flags, along with the flags of Canada and U.S. territories, waved as the youth from Puget Sound carried them briskly to the front of the worship center and past the 47 missionaries being commissioned.

Three missionaries serving in the Northwest, Buck Webb and Ken and Dondi Harmon, took special pride in the service being held in their convention.

Webb, who considers Springdale, Ark., home, serves



SHARING FAITH — Tommy Hinson (center) and Stephanie Smith (right) share food and conversation with a young man on the streets of Seattle's Capitol Hill area, an area of the city populated by many homeless teenagers from across the country. The North American Mission Board missionaries were working with a ministry as part of a pre-commissioning orientation session. (Photo by James Dotson)

as student evangelism strategist for Puget Sound Association establishing evangelistic clubs on high school and junior high campuses.

"I've always had a heart to work outside the Bible Belt," Webb said. "God opened a lot of doors and led me here. People are real and genuine in the Northwest, and I want to be a part of the work."

The commissioning service capped a five-day training and orientation session for the missionaries that featured both formal classroom training as well as an opportunity for the missionaries to participate in ministry on the streets of Seattle. The group joined members of

The Sanctuary in a regular Friday evening walk along the streets of Seattle's Capitol Hill area distributing hot soup, sandwiches, and blankets to the homeless — many of whom are teens from across the country.

The Sanctuary is an outgrowth of The Fisherman's Club, which for 15 years has ministered to the young people on the streets of Seattle. The Sanctuary began meeting as a new congregation on Easter Sunday of this year as part of the Embracing Seattle/Strategic Focus Cities church planting and evangelism initiative.

"I helped hand out blankets and talked to a man named John," said Bill Yates, a church planter from Stockton, Calif. "He wanted to know why I would spend so much time with him. It was awesome."

Tommy Hinson, associational missionary for South Central Association in Winfield, Kan., said he had the opportunity to hear the sobering stories of several marginalized youth — and

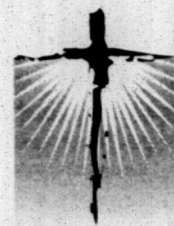
was able to share with them the hope in Christ.

"I thought it was important to not just hear strategy of ministry and missions, but to be able to touch several people in the name of Christ," he said. "I am both challenged and blessed by doing a practical outreach ministry in the midst of the orientation process."

Harmon, a regional collegiate evangelism coordinator in Portland, Ore., said he was impressed with the openness of the homeless youth. "It's refreshing to get out and be involved in ministry," he said.

Reccord, in his message, emphasized that the work in Seattle is an example of the challenge all Christians encounter. He stressed the importance of finding pleasure in whatever mission God calls his servants and the need for boldness.

Dan Moon translated the message into Korean with the same fervor Reccord displayed.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
*Record*

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 23, 2002

VOL. 126

No. 16

## U.S. to play key role

WASHINGTON (BP) — The United States should promote religious freedom and other human rights even as it combats terrorism in cooperation with countries that violate the liberties of their citizens, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) said in a recently released report. In its third annual review, the commission acknowledged the United States has had enhanced opportunities to advance religious liberty during the war on terrorism, but the panel said the U.S. government needs to be careful not to swap its commitment to human rights for cooperation from some of the world's worst abusers of religious liberty and other rights. "The campaign against terrorism has changed the relationships that the United States has with many foreign countries, including several whose governments engage in severe violations of religious freedom," the USCIRF said in its new report. "In some cases, these new relationships afford a unique opportunity to encourage much-needed improvements by governments in the protection of religious freedom." Among the countries the United States has "the heightened attention of" are Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, the panel said. "At the same time, the U.S. Government must ensure that steps to improve relations with cooperating countries that have major problems protecting religious freedom and other human rights ... do not undermine its human rights message to the governments of these countries, and it should carefully monitor whether these steps are impeding progress on improvements in protecting human rights," the USCIRF recommended. The commission cited China, Russia, Pakistan, Sudan and Uzbekistan as examples of countries in the second category.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

After spring graduation exercises, Baptist-affiliated Clarke College in Newton closes its doors for the last time. The graduating class was made up of 110 students, and 31 members of the staff and faculty are faced with the difficult task of finding employment options.

### 20 years ago

First Church, Natchez, completes a campaign to raise funds to build a new auditorium. Odean Puckett, pastor, reports that the pledge was the largest ever raised in a Mississippi Together We Build campaign.

### 50 years ago

Camp Garaywa is accepting registrations for the summer assembly programs. The announcement notes, "Do not come unless you can abide by the rules of the assembly, which includes lights out and everyone quiet by 11 p.m."



# Casket adds reality check to seminary class

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "I am sorry to tell you your husband has passed away," the doctor told the elderly wife, who responded with a few quiet tears.

Jerry Barlow waited respectfully in the background, ready to comfort and pray with the grieving widow. He had just witnessed a man dying: the man's breathing had become shallow, moving from his chest up. With his complexion changing color, the man took his last breath.

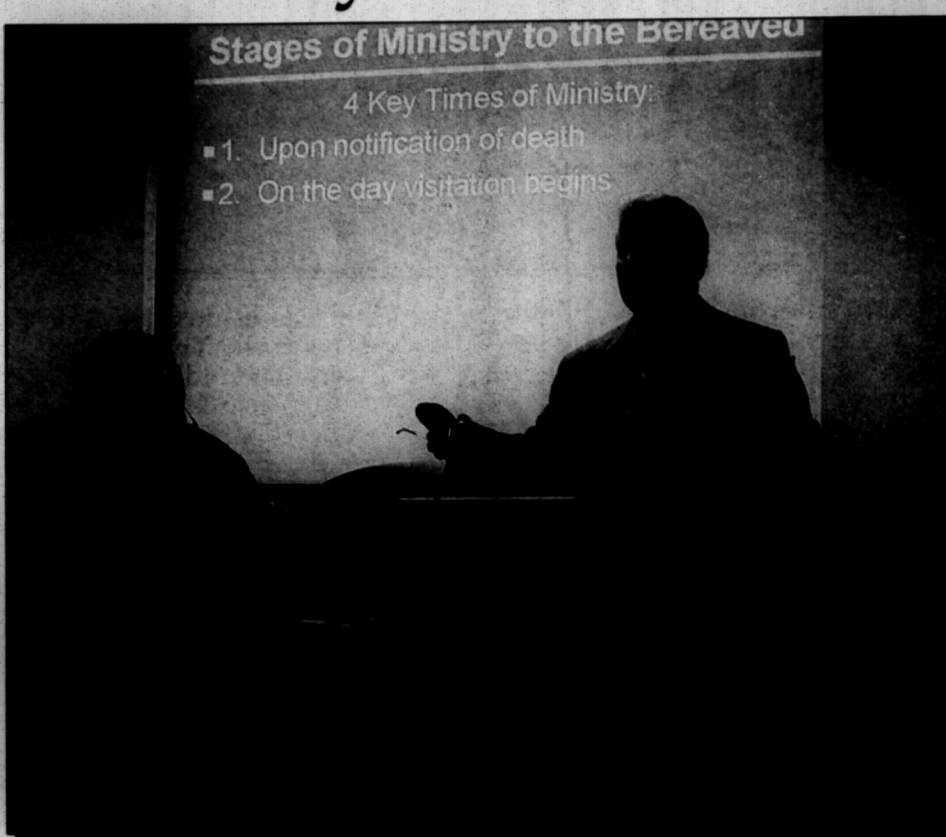
"I can't tell you all I felt in those moments, but it was a very precious time," the New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) associate professor of preaching and pastoral work told his students in their last week of classes.

Standing beside a large brown casket that was recently donated as a new teaching aid for his pastoral ministries class, Barlow softly shared about the man's funeral.

"It was the first funeral I ever did," he said, reflecting on the man who passed away. "I still remember his laugh. He had a great laugh."

While Barlow added the human element to the discussion, the presence of the casket helped reinforce the importance of pastoral ministry during funerals.

"Students in my Pastoral Ministry class were able to visualize more realistically



PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE — Jerry Barlow, New Orleans Seminary associate professor of preaching and pastoral work, teaches his students how to conduct a funeral service. A recently-donated casket was an addition to the seminary's Pastoral Ministry Chapel, a classroom that already contains a full-size baptistery, where students are given practical training in church ordinances as a part of their educational experience. (Photo by Shannon Baker)

how to minister to those needing comfort in the different events leading up to and including a funeral service and graveside service," said Barlow, who often stood at the head of the casket during his lectures to show how to be available for each person as

they paused to grieve before their deceased loved one.

The casket was an addition to the seminary's Pastoral Ministry Chapel, a classroom that already contains a full-size baptistery, where students are given practical training in church ordinances as a part of

their educational experience at the seminary.

The casket was donated by Gary Lambert of Batesville Casket Company, who was made aware by his daughter, NOBTS student Jennifer Jordan, of the seminary's need for the teaching aid. Robert Crain and his son Rob of Crain Funeral Home in Franklinton, La., donated the casket cart.

Barlow, an experienced pastor with over 24 years of church leadership, offered many suggestions on conducting funerals, including one he has practiced numerous times.

"When I talk with people as they remember their loved one, I try to discreetly write down their comments about the deceased person," he said. "You'll never know what you will be able to use in the expository eulogy," he said, in what he called his scripture-based message during the funeral service.

Concerning eulogies, he also offered another insight he has learned: don't wait too long in the service for a family member to participate or to offer a brief eulogy, because they will likely become more emotional as the time passes.

He also stressed the importance of the minister having the final say, to help draw people back to the Lord and the comfort that only he can provide.

## R. Maddox tapped for Bellevue post

CORDOVA, Tenn. (BP) — Roland Maddox has been

named president and chief executive officer of Love Worth Finding Ministries, the broadcast ministry of Bellevue Church, Memphis, pastored by former Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Adrian Rogers.



Maddox will assume responsibilities previously held by Rogers, who announced that he will continue to function as the ministry's chairman of the board. Maddox recently retired from LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC, where he served as associate to the president.

Maddox's wife Sara is the daughter of the late Joe Odle, longtime Mississippi pastor and editor of The Baptist Record from 1959-76.

## U.S. leaders asked to address gambling's impact

WASHINGTON (BP) — More than 220 religious leaders have asked President Bush and Congress to address the devastating impact of legalized gambling on American life.

The request came in an open letter from not only evangelical leaders — including several Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) executives — but from representatives of the mainline Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish communities. It appeared as a full-page advertisement in Roll Call, a twice-weekly Capitol Hill newspaper.

The religious leaders acknowledged in the letter they are divided on many of the day's critical issues but said, "we are united in our opposition to legalized gambling."

"Gambling has become a blight on our nation's cultural landscape," the letter said. "As religious leaders, we see the gambling-induced pain and devastation among many of those who look to us for spiritual guidance. Thus, we stand together not only in our concern but in our commitment to oppose this predatory and destructive industry."

"We call on members of Congress to place America's citizens and families ahead of the false promises and hefty political contributions of the gambling industry and to begin to address this rapidly growing menace to our national welfare."

The signers listed in the Roll Call ad included:

- Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt.
- Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.
- Richard Land, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) president.

- R. Albert Mohler, Southern Seminary president.

- Former SBC President Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church outside Memphis.

Other Southern Baptist signers not listed in the ad included Southwestern Baptist Seminary President Ken Hemphill and former SBC President Tom Elliff, pastor of First Church of Dell City in Oklahoma. [The letter and signers as they appeared in the Roll Call ad, plus additional signers, may be accessed at [www.citizenlink.org](http://www.citizenlink.org).]

Also signing the letter were James Dobson, Focus on the Family president; Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ founder; John Busby, Salvation Army national commander; Chuck Colson, Prison Fellowship founder; author and speaker Tony Campolo; Ken Connor, Family Research Council president; and Tony Evans, pastor and president of The Urban Alternative.

Other signers included Presbyterian pastor D. James Kennedy; Max Lucado, author and Church of Christ pastor; Richard John Neuhaus, Catholic priest and president of the Institute on Religion and Public Life; John Perkins, chairman of the Christian Community Development Association; Dennis Rainey, Family Life executive director; Ron Sider, Evangelicals for Social Action president; Chuck Smith, Calvary Chapel senior pastor; and Jim Winkler, general secretary of the United Methodist Church's General Board of Church and Society.

The signers also included numerous seminary and divinity school presidents and deans, as well as denominational heads, college presidents, and ministry leaders.

The number of religious leaders signing onto the letter "communicates with unmistakable clarity the consensus of opinion that America's religious community has reached on the issue of gambling," said Barrett Duke, ERLC vice president for research and its specialist on gambling issues.

"This letter represents a groundswell of monumental proportions that national and local public officials cannot ignore," he said. "The voice of every anti-gambling activist in our country will have to be taken more seriously by our nation's public officials, because so many religious leaders have chosen to speak with one voice in expressing their opposition to our nation's current gambling plague."

In their letter, the religious leaders cited a litany of legalized gambling's ills, as well as statistics in support of their assertions:

- It exploits those at the low end of the economic spectrum.
- Gambling cripples families, resulting in divorce, child abuse, and neglect.
- It attracts crime to communities and produces new criminals.
- Gambling co-opts public officials and undercuts the government's role as protector of the public.
- It produces a boom in the number of gambling addicts and in the rate of young people with gambling problems.

More than 15 million Americans are pathological or problem gamblers, according to the 1999 report of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC). The NGISC also reported gambling has been at least partly responsible for more than two million divorces in recent years.



## DOG BITE PREVENTION WEEK

This week, the third week in May, is Dog Bite Prevention Week. I am thoroughly convinced that every cause, or every little group of folks who have an issue, has some week designated to call attention to it.

Now, some of you have probably overlooked this significant week — Dog Bite Prevention Week — but if you will hurry, we've got just a few days left and maybe you can organize a parade, or write a check, or maybe roll the windows up in the car and drive by a big dog and make fun of him!

Now, unlike some senseless causes, which are of little sense and virtually no cause, this one actually is significant. There are valuable lessons that we need to hear and heed about Dog Bite Prevention Week.

• Lesson One is we need to **ALERT**. Sometimes there are really important things around us to which we pay no attention and this may well be one of them.

Did you know that statistically one-third of all homeowner's insurance claims are related to bites? Last year over 310 million dollars was paid out on dog bites.

Pretty amazing, huh? Like so many other things that we pay little attention to, it can be a major problem and we don't even notice it.

For instance, things like the infiltration into our daily language of those kinds of words for which I would have gotten spanked as a kid if I had used them.

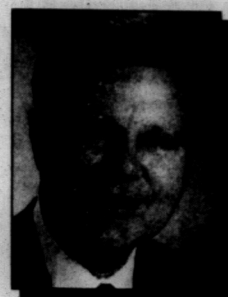
Now we can hear those words on public airwaves and kids use them as a part of the common culture. Bad things creep in and we do not even notice.

• Second lesson to be learned is to **AVOID**. Now, the folks with the Dog Bite Prevention Week say that there are two main reasons folks get bit.

One, owners do not train their dogs properly. Two, people bother dogs when they shouldn't. For instance, some people get bit because they bother the pups and some get bit because they try to play with the dog when he is trying to eat.

As a result, the dog snaps at them. Well, what do you expect him to do? The lesson to be learned here is that we ought to avoid the dog at certain times or we will, and maybe deservedly so, get bit.

While dogs are one thing, why don't folks realize there are other things to avoid — like people? They bite, too! I've known people who have as their best friend people who bite them. I'm talking about verbally and emotion-



# Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

ally, they just bite everybody.

Sometimes people are married to those folks. It's kind of hard to stay away when you've said the "I Do's," but if you can avoid what makes them bite, you are probably better off.

Apparently there are some people in this world whose purpose for being is just to bite folks. At the same time, there are people whose purpose for being is to get bitten. This is called "co-dependency," and it is in some ways understandable and yet is weird too.

Have you ever known someone who was married to a first-class, certified loser? Then something happens to that person and they go out looking for a new mate and, lo and behold, they find one just like the one they were glad they got rid of.

It happens!

We are a people who are prone "not to avoid" even though we know we are about to get snapped. I'm not talking about escapism that so many people exercise today, meaning that if it doesn't suit you or if it is a little out of your comfort zone, you stay away from some issue or somebody.

What I am talking about is that if you know every time you go to a particular place the dog is going to come out from under the house and chew your leg, you might want to find some way not to go there every day.

• The final lesson to all of us from Dog Bite Prevention Week might be to **AVERT**. Just think about it — there are some things that we can do something about.

Related to the dogs, you can avert a dog bite by simply making sure they are in the fence, in the house, or that the

owner has them on a leash or under control. That helps immensely to avoid the hurt.

There are also very practical ways we can avert the problem simply by taking action before it ever comes about.

Let me give you three, daily, practical things you can do that will alter the future:

• **Love your kids.** That may sound like a no-brainer, but it will help to avoid many of the conflicts and confrontations in the road as they grow up. Unfortunately, it gets done less than you would think.

Though it is far from scientific, I have tried to keep up with the percentage of men who never heard their father say, "I love you." While I couldn't put an exact number on it, well over half of all of them grew up in that kind of stark, cold, at least distant relationship where a dad never grabbed his kid and hugged him or her and said, "I love you!"

Does it make a difference? Well, if you could draw the line and see the ones who knew a loving parent who told them so, and knew those who never heard of their father's love, it makes a vast difference. Sharing genuine, supportive, encouraging love will shape their lives!

• **Buckle up.** Right now, in the state of Mississippi, they have got a "Click it or Ticket" campaign going. Every few minutes you hear the reminder on the radio, "Click it" (buckle your seatbelt) or "Ticket" (you're gonna get stuck with the bill). Mississippi law enforcement is trying to force you and me to be protected.

I know a man who gets in his car and takes the seatbelt,

pulls it across his lap, but does not click it — he just holds it. Why? Because he doesn't want to be buckled in, yet in order to avoid getting a small fine, he will hold it so that the police can't tell that he is not buckled in.

By holding it, he saves a \$25 fine; by buckling up, he might save his life! One little click could avoid immense suffering and pain as well as huge medical bills.

• **Attend church.** Do you realize that God made one day in seven for your benefit? I know that it is a day of worship where we go to church to experience a relationship with the Lord and his people, but it is a day God set aside for our benefit.

On that day of rest we should experience a change of activities, a change of pace, a change of thought process, where we have the blessing of aligning our lives with him, of being attuned to his ways and his Word and being inspired by his presence.

The world is full of folks who could avert all kinds of problems if they would just maintain that living, loving, lifting walk with God that is nourished by faithful church attendance.

The hard-driving, one-hundred-hour-a-week, working businessman can be greatly benefited by getting a new perspective on life from God, if he could realize that life is more than just work, that it is the wonder of family and relationships and kids.

The burdened mother who is perplexed by what to do with the seriously ill child, or rebellious teenager, or grown son who is determined to live in sin, can repeatedly rediscover that God really does care, and God really can carry our burden and carry us through life's problems.

The young person struggling with decision-making, groping for answers, facing temptations, and looking for help can experience the creator of the universe who wants them to experience the greatness and the goodness of his love.

Happy Dog Bite Prevention Week to each of you!



### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## SBC Credentials, Tellers committees announced for St. Louis meeting

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Members of the Credentials Committee for the June 11-12 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in St. Louis have been named by SBC President James Merritt. The committee will be chaired by Kevin Clarkson, pastor of First Church, Moore, Okla.

Among the members of the committee is Kellie Kitchings of Clinton, a homemaker and member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Merritt also named members of the Tellers Committee for the June 11-12 SBC annual meeting in St. Louis. David Fleming, pastor, First Church Daytona Beach, Daytona Beach, Fla., will serve as committee chairman.

Among the members of the committee are Randy Mobley, pastor of Church Road Church, Nesbit; Candy Anderson, a teacher and member of Parkway Church, Clinton; and Shirley Futral, a homemaker and member of Broadmoor Church, Madison.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Bible drill participants of First Church, Oxford

Bible drill participants from First Church, Oxford, were (left side of stairwell, from top) Ashley Butler, Courtney Hunter, and Asheton Fearing; (right side, from top) Reed Falkner, Katy Carter, Mary Margaret Mize, and Jennifer MacIntyre. Not pictured: Rebecca Hawkins and Whitney Wakefield.

Denton Lotz will speak at Prentiss Church, Prentiss, May 26 at 6 p.m. Since 1988, Lotz has served as the general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). He has also served BWA as director of evangelism and education and director of youth ministries. He served as a missionary in eastern and central Europe and as a professor at the International Baptist Seminary in Rueschlikon, Switzerland.



Kids on Mission of New Home Church, Smith Assn. 949-1945.

New Home Church, Smith Association, began a Kids on Mission group in 2001. The group has collected food for the associational food pantry; sent letters, artwork on a mural, and a large Christmas card to Taylor Field, Graffiti Church, New York City; and surpassed their goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Martha Prince is mission director; Ron Swindoll, pastor.

Double Springs Church, Maben, recently held a recognition service for younger GAs. Pictured (from left) are Leah Foles, Kara Foles, Sara Langford, and April Butler.

Spinning cycle classes are now being held at the Christian Life Center, First Church, Jackson, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 6:45-7:30 a.m. or 7:30-8:15 a.m. For additional information, call the Christian Life Center at (601) 949-1945.

Williamsburg Church, Collins, will celebrate the building of a new sanctuary and renovation of Sunday School rooms on May 26 at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served in fellowship hall following the dedication services. Dennis Campbell is pastor.

Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, will celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary on June 2. The schedule will include worship service at 10 a.m. with Bob Maddux, former pastor, speaker; dinner on the grounds at 11:30 a.m.; and worship service at 1 p.m. with Steve Mayes, pastor.



GAs of Double Springs Church, Maben

### PASTOR ... WOULD YOU READ THIS

From a layman who could help you be a more effective soul winner in your Church?

When you share the Plan of Salvation in a one-to-one witness, do you pray the Sinners or Repentant prayer? Thereby, should you not do this in your Invitation at the end of your message, which is

Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross and shed your blood for my sins. You were buried, you rose again, you have ascended back into heaven. I believe by faith you can and will save me as I ask you to.

When you finish, start singing your Invitation Hymn. Do not continue talking when you finish. If you want to extend the Invitation to transfer membership, do this after the first stanza of song. Try for one year.

### LAYMAN ... LET ME CHALLENGE YOU

Have you ever shared the Plan of Salvation with anyone? When I was eighteen (18) years old, a dentist, named Dr. Sandusky, shared with me how to be saved. I prayed in that dental chair to receive Christ.

Where would I be today if he had not shared this with me?

I had the good fortune to lead several hundred to the Lord. This is what I enjoy doing. I never get down when someone does not accept the Lord. This is a rejection of the Lord, not me. I am not a preacher, nor do I like to speak to large groups. I like one-to-one.

Would you be willing to be trained to lead people to the Lord? You will never be the same if you do. Let me challenge you to ask your Pastor to train you. Better yet, go with him and watch him witness.

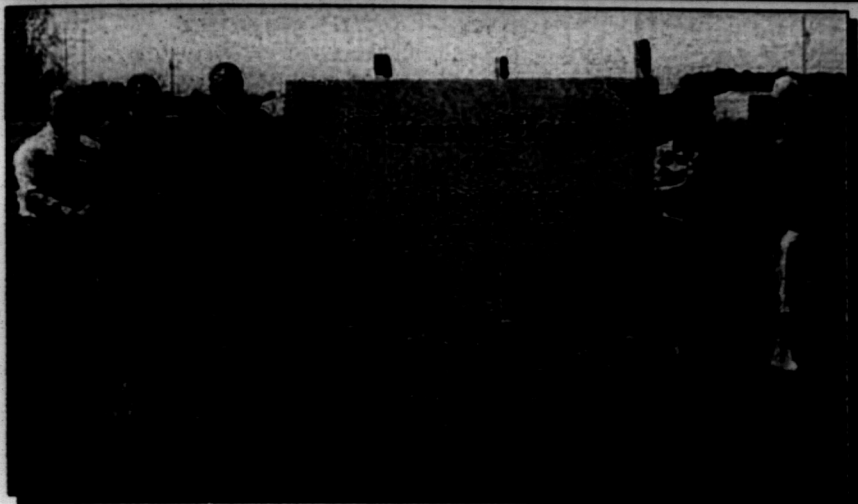
If one out of fifteen Southern Baptists would witness and lead one to the Lord, each year we would see 1,000,000 come to know the Lord. This is three times as many as we do now.

You should use the prayer listed above which is for Pastors.

W.M. GURLEY  
7125 RIVERDALE BEND ROAD  
MEMPHIS, TN 38125-4442



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Beard, Crews, Rickman, Wright, and Smith

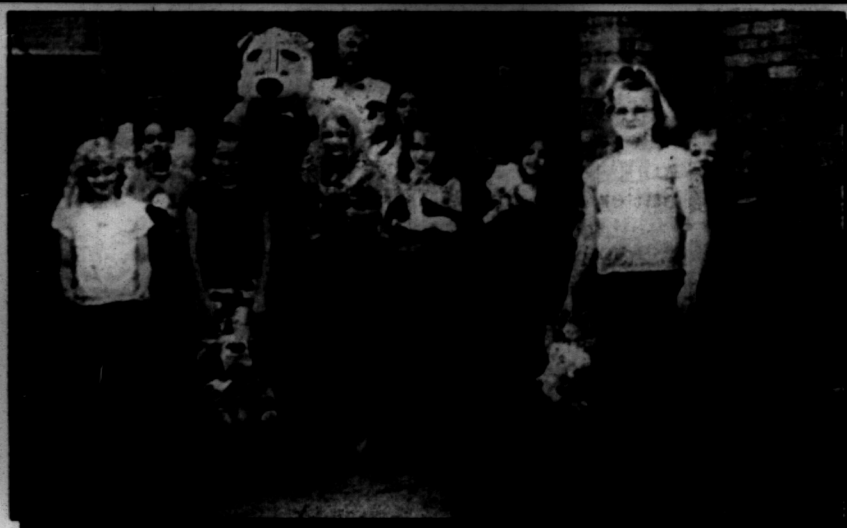
**Caledonia Church,** Caledonia, recently broke ground on their new church site for their initial ministry building. New building planning committee, pictured (from left) are Donald Beard; Donnie Crews; Glenn Rickman; Kathy Wright; Mike Smith, pastor. Not shown: Larry Wright.

**The Awana Club of Iuka Church, Iuka,** ended the club year with an award banquet. Pazlee Walker was chosen for the clubber of the year. Tyler Walker (pictured) received the Timothy Award Trophy. The

3rd-6th grade club members are also pictured.



Walker



GAs of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs

**GAs of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs,** collected stuffed animals and shared them with residents of Pine Crest Guest Home in Hazlehurst and Copiah Living Center in Crystal Springs. Pictured are Reagan Sandavol, Jessica Cooley, Katie VanLandingham, Morgan Walker, Lacey Sanders, Amber Buchanan, Kimber Usry, Dallas Jackson, Victoria Harvey, and Hope Bell. The leaders (pictured, back row) are Kathy Berry, Mike Webb, and Charlotte Webb. Not pictured are Karen Johnson, Debbie and Becky Yarbrough.



GAs of First Church, Pascagoula

The first and second grade **GAs of First Church, Pascagoula,** led in worship on April 7 by performing in sign language, *We Will Glorify The Lamb*. GAs (from left) are Mary Katherine Lawrence, Taylor Odom, Taylor Tingle, Anna Lauren Harrison, Samantha Kilgore, Madison Olsen; (back row) are Donna Anderson, sign language instructor, and Melissa Green, leader. Rex Yancey is pastor.



Awana Club of Iuka Church, Iuka

**BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC** sought by church averaging 110 in Sunday School. Please e-mail resume to mwsjgb@vicksburg.com or fax to (601) 636-7574 or mail to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

**HURLEY BAPTIST CHURCH,** Hurley, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music and youth. Please send resume to: Hurley Baptist Search Committee, P.O. Box 395, Hurley, MS 39555.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,** Nettleton, Miss., is seeking a summer youth minister. For details call (662) 963-7341. Send resumes to: FBC Nettleton, P.O. Box 427, Nettleton, MS 38858-0427.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,** Flora, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Church is averaging 190 in Sunday School. Please send resume to FBC Flora, P.O. Box 163, Flora, MS 39071 or e-mail resume to riblythe@aol.com. For more information call (601) 879-8022.

**OAKLAND HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH** seeking bi-vocational minister of music to work with adult and youth choirs. Please send resume to OHBC, 5718 - 5th Street, Meridian, MS 39307.

**MID-SIZED CHURCH** seeking part-time minister of music. SteepHollow Baptist Church, Poplarville, Miss. Two Sunday morning services plus Wednesday night services. Please call (601) 795-4638 or fax resume to (601) 795-4696.

**ROLLING FORK BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a summer youth minister. Approximately 30 youth of Baptist and other denominations are involved. Two bedroom house is provided. The position could turn full-time at the end of summer if desired. If interested, please call Cissy Smith or Andy Anderson at (662) 873-4346 or the church office at (662) 873-2862.

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## Revival dates

**Eagle Lake, Vicksburg:** June 9-12; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.: Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Shane Freeman, evangelist; Terry Busby, music; Karen Busby, pianist.

**Bellevue (Pontotoc):** May 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Ard from Little Rock, Ark., evangelist; Lamar Pickens, pastor.

**Mt. Carmel, Edinburg:** June 2-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Jeffery Jones, music; Keith Fulton, pastor.

## Russell C. Harris dies at age 65

Russell C. Harris, 65, died March 22 at the Covington County Hospital. He lived in the Mt. Olive area for the past 17, and was a member of First Church, Collins.



Harris

Russell had been disabled since 1989, but supplied in churches when his health permitted. He pastored churches in Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi and served with the North American Mission Board as a prison chaplain in the Florida Penal System. Russell attended Baptist Bible Institute in Florida, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary.

He is survived by his wife Martha Hodge Harris; children Timothy M. Harris; Louin and Donna Harris Warden, Lumberton; four granddaughters, one grandson, and three great-granddaughters.



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



Thomas and Gardner

**Deacon Appreciation Day** was held on May 5 at Shiloh Church, Oxford. Robert Gardner (right) was honored as deacon emeritus and presented a plaque by David Thomas, pastor. Deacons honored with certificates of appreciation (pictured, from left) are Donnie Holmes, Derek Starnes, Steven Russell, Clay Russell, Kent Littlejohn, Willie D. Brown; and Thomas, pastor.



Copeland

**Liberty Church, Liberty,** recently recognized Diane Copeland for 20 years service as church/financial secretary.

**Jerry N. Watts, Biloxi,** is available for pulpit supply and interim or music supply. He may be reached at (228) 594-0635 or by e-mail at wattco1@yahoo.com.

**Ryan Smith,** a graduate of William Carey College, was ordained to the ministry on April 21 at Williamsburg Church, Collins, where he is serving as student minister. Dennis Campbell is pastor.

**Tishomingo Chapel, Corinth,** honored one of its members with Valeria Sherard Appreciation Day on April 28. Sherard served as a Home Mission Board missionary in Alaska for 35 years. Special speaker was John DeFoore of Boerne, Texas, who was a pastor and co-worker in Alaska when Sherard went there in 1952. Pictured (from left) are Tracy Moser, representing Blue Mountain College; Bruce and Melna Dellinger; Marianne Rollins of Shalimar, Fla.; Sherard; and DeFoore.

**Mt. Olive Church, Meridian,** held deacon ordination services on April 28. Pictured are Wesley Lewis, Harvey Ray Troutman, and Howard "Sonny" Weathers, deacons; and Terry L. Upchurch, pastor, who gave the charge to the church and preached the ordination sermon.



Deacons of Mt. Olive Church, Meridian



Deacons of Shiloh Church, Oxford

A reception will be held in honor of William Robert "Bill" Miller, pastor of Bethel Church, Monticello, on May 26, from 2-4 p.m. Miller received his doctorate of ministry degree at Midwestern Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., on May 18.



Moser, the Dellingers, Rollins, Sherard, and DeFoore

### Clark W. McMurray dies at 81

Clark W. McMurray, 81, died April 5 at Pine Meadow Alzheimers Specialty Care Center, Hattiesburg. McMurray, a native of Alabama, pastored Calvary Church, Harrodsburg, Ky.; Stanford Church, Stanford, Ky.; First Church, Philadelphia; Northside Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.; and First, Pascagoula, where he served 22 years. He received his education from Mississippi College and Southern Seminary.

Survivors include two sons, David Clark McMurray of San Antonio, Tex., and John Mark McMurray, of Kingsport, Tenn.; two daughters, Janet McMurray Patterson of Hattiesburg and Susan McMurray Fleming of Chico, Calif.; and a sister, Ann Foster of Cleveland; and 12 grandchildren.

**Mt. Olive (Carroll):** May 26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed with lunch; message by Keith Ramage, new pastor.

**Corinth, Purvis:** May 26; 112th year; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; music and worship service with Joe Beach, 10:30 a.m.; The Bibletones Quartet, special music, 11:30 a.m.; covered dish lunch, 12:15 p.m.; David Strebeck, pastor.

**Leaf River, Pineville:** June 9; Jim McIntosh, Altha, Fla., originally from Pineville, morning sermon; lunch and fellowship will follow; 45th annual meeting of Pineville-Leaf River Cemetery Association, 1:30 p.m.

**Antioch, Florence:** June 2; dinner on the grounds at noon; afternoon music starting at 1 p.m.; Charles Moore, pastor, speaker; Tim Aycok, music.

**Liberty (Carroll):** June 2; services, 10:45 a.m.; George Smith, Carroll/Montgomery Association, guest speaker; Shirley Berry, Water Valley, music; Riley Ainsworth, pastor.

**Shiloh, (Carroll):** May 26; service, 11 a.m., followed by lunch at the church; Doug Warren, pastor, message.

**Macedonia, Louisville:** June 30; service, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; testimonies and gospel singing, 1:30 p.m.; Dalton Haggan, Crystal Springs, guest preacher; Terressa Ward, music; Jack Manor, pastor.

**Calvary, Pricedale:** June 2; fellowship, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wayne McCullough, guest speaker; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon song and praise service; Bradley and Brandy White will lead in afternoon service; Harold Gartman, pastor.

**Friendship, Brookhaven:** May 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; and afternoon service; Raymond Parker, guest speaker; Jimmy Houston, pastor.

**Oral, Hattiesburg:** June 2; 10:45 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall, 12:15 p.m.; recognition of former pastors and music, 1:30-3 p.m.; Tom McCormick, former pastor, guest speaker; George G. Aultman, interim pastor.

**West Shady Grove (Wayne):** June 2; worship, 11 a.m.; Robert

P. (Bob) Robinson, Hattiesburg, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; Ervin Mooney, pastor.

**Roundaway, Doddsville:** May 26; worship, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish lunch; 1:15 p.m. service; Ron and Charlotte Madison of Wetumka, Ala., speakers.

**Hebron, Pheba:** June 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall followed by a singing service; James Parker, message; Matthew Ware, music.

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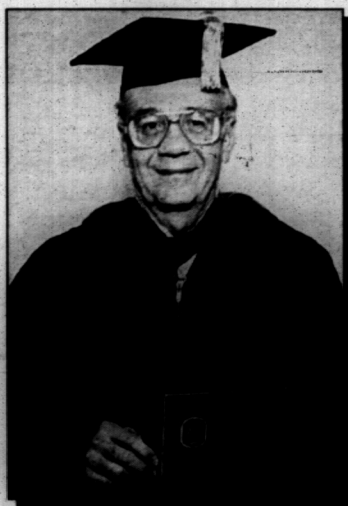
# BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



Mississippi College retiring faculty

Mississippi College recognized retiring faculty on April 30 in honor of their years of service. Those retiring from the college this year are Anita Gowin, Clinton, professor and chair, Foreign Languages (32 years); Joel K. Hudson, Clinton, assistant professor, Family & Consumer Sciences and Health Education (31 years); Rachel H. Smith, Clinton, associate library director, Speed Library (23 years); Linda Lytal, Clinton, counselor, Counseling and Testing Center (26 years); George C. Pittman, Clinton, professor, Department of English (25 years); Danie Robbins, Clinton, secretary, president's office (23 years); Marilyn Joiner, Clinton,

administrative secretary, Teacher Education (22 years); and Lois Summerlin, Brandon, postal clerk, MC Campus Post Office (16 years). Pictured (from left, seated) are Smith, Robbins, and Joiner; (standing) Pittman, Weill, Gowin, Summerlin, and Hudson.



Lee

Gerald Lee of Clinton, professor of economics, has been named the Distinguished Professor of the Year at Mississippi College (MC). He joined the faculty in 1970. Lee is a graduate of MC, University of Southern Mississippi, and received the doctorate of philosophy degree at the University of Mississippi.

Mississippi College held its undergraduate commencement ceremonies for the 176th session on May 11. S. Truett Cathy, founder and chairman of Chick-Fil-A gave the commencement address. Terry Cutrer, pastor of Moffett Road Church, Mobile, Ala., gave the invocation. Jim Nalls, Agape Agenda Ministries, River Ridge, La., gave the benediction. Pictured (from left) are Lloyd E. Roberts, interim president; Cathy; Cutrer; and Nalls.

Mississippi College held its graduate commencement ceremonies for the 176th session on May 10. Degrees were conferred on approximately 75 graduate

student candidates. Anita Gowin, professor, Department of Foreign Languages, gave the commencement address. Mike Thompson, pastor of Glade Church, Laurel, gave the invocation and benediction. Pictured (from left) are Lloyd E. Roberts, interim president; Gowin; and Thompson.



Roberts, Gowin, and Thompson



Roberts, Cathy, Cutrer, and Nalls

## VBS DATES

**Antioch Church, Columbus:** June 3-7; 9 a.m.-noon; age 4 through 8th grade; for additional information, call (662) 328-4787.

**Faith, Jackson:** June 3-7; 8:30-11:30 a.m.; kindergarten through 6th grade; Greg Wolfe is pastor; for additional information, call (601) 368-2983.

**Glade, Laurel:** June 3-7; age 4-6th grade; 8-11:30 a.m.; for additional information, call (601) 649-4246.

**Barnes Crossing, Tupelo:** June 3-7; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; J. D. Johnson, pastor.

**New Hope, Foxworth:** June 3-7; age 2-grade 6, 8:30-11:30 a.m.; teenagers, June 10-14, 6:30-8 p.m.; call (601) 736-6511 for more information.

**Castlewoods, Brandon:** June 2-6; 6:15-8:45 p.m.; kindergarten through grade 6; for additional information or to pre-register, call (601) 992-9977.

**Friendship, Aberdeen:** June 3-7; age 3 to 6th grade; for additional information, call (662) 369-6930 or 369-2973; Todd Bowen, pastor.

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**FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH**, Hawthorne, Nev., is seeking volunteer construction workers to help remodel our building. We have three projects that we are wishing to complete this summer and an opportunity like this is ideal as a mission project for a church. For more information contact Pastor Jerry Etheron at (775) 945-0490; (775) 945-5512; or NBC Volunteer Enrollment Coordinators at (775) 721-0238.

**GROUPS FOR GREAT PASSION PLAY** packages in Eureka Springs, Ark., (with tickets, lodging, recreation, and meals) see www.kellersresort.com or call (479) 253-8418.

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**CHURCH FURNITURE FOR SALE:** 69 pews of various lengths, communion table, pulpit, pulpit chairs. Available in September. Call First Baptist Church, Winona, MS, (662) 283-4682.

**PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**, Union City, Tenn., is looking for a full time youth pastor. Send resumes to: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 688 Sublett Road, Union City, TN 38261.

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Twelfth Street Baptist Church of Gadsden, Ala., is seeking a full-time minister of education. Send resumes to Twelfth Street Baptist Church, Attn: Church Staff Search Committee, 323 South 12th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901.

**BEVERLY'S TOURS & TRAVEL**, Starkville, Miss., Christian Fellowship & Fun. Gulf Deep Sea Fishing May 26-27; Smokies Silver Dollar Rod Run May 29-June 1; Worship with Dr. Charles Stanley June 8-9; Rocky Mountain High/Yellowstone July 8-19. Call Beverly Rives at (662) 465-8805 for information.

## Georgia Mae Ogburn dies at 91

Georgia Mae Ogburn, 91, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Chile, died April 14. Appointed by the International Mission Board in 1940,



Ogburn

Ogburn headed the women's department of Chilean Baptist Seminary in Santiago before accepting the position of executive secretary-treasurer for Chile's Woman's Missionary Union in 1948. Born in Selma, Ala., and reared in Meridian, Ogburn was a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now merged with Southern Baptist Seminary) in Louisville, Ky.





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

### Odell Tebo dies at age 72

Odell Tebo, 72, longtime minister in South Mississippi and a native of Smith County, died at his home in Hattiesburg on April 18 after a lengthy illness. Funeral services were held at Moore Funeral Home on April 20 with burial at Highland Park Cemetery, Hattiesburg.

Tebo pastored churches in Forrest, Lamar, Smith, Scott, Amite, and Jasper counties during his 44 years in the ministry. Due to health problems, Tebo retired in 1995 from Enterprise Church, Liberty.

Survivors include his wife Johnnie Tebo of Hattiesburg; sons, Steve Tebo of Purvis, and Mike Tebo of Hattiesburg; daughter, Linda Rutherford of Fort Riley, Kansas; sister, Chris Lee of Pinola; and seven grandchildren.

### MISSION HELP NEEDED

Editor:

Since 1993, our church has been involved in many mission trips outside the country, and we have had 13 trips to Mexico. All our Mexico trips have been extensive — several Vacation Bible School teams, a construction team, and at least one medical team on each trip during the summers.

The Lord has already provided most of the needs for our July 20-27 Mexico mission trip, except for some key people. As yet we have no doctor, dentist, optometrist, or pharmacist. Our prayer is that someone will sense the Lord's call to this specific need and place, and respond to his leading. We have nurses at this time, but a nurse practitioner would be a blessing because we have a missionary doctor on the field.

Should you sense this as the Lord's will for your life, you may obtain further information by contacting me at 105 N. Marshall Ave., Charleston, MS 38921, or by calling (662) 647-5350 after 3:30 p.m.

We will be working in northeastern Mexico in the State of Tamaulipas with Southern Baptist Convention-related missionaries. Total cost is \$350 from Mississippi, unless one prefers to make different travel plans.

Joe Young, pastor  
Calvary Chapel Church  
Parchman

### OUTRAGED

Editor:

I am outraged at the decision of our U.S. Supreme Court to legalize child pornography if no child is involved in the making of the pornographic movie. This means that sex between an adult and child, oral sex involving a child, and sexual bondage of a child is now legal if the movie is made using computer images and no living child is used to make the movie.

I demand and hope that the American public will concur that the six justices who voted to legalize child pornography resign or be impeached. I demand that they be arrested for promoting child pornography and convicted of doing the same. I demand that they be imprisoned just as a child molester would be.

This should be the attitude of every parent in this country. This should be the attitude of our President and U.S. Congress. This should be the attitude of all of our so-called Christian leaders, who should be preaching this message from their pulpits every Sunday until something is done about our Supreme Court.

It is time Americans — especially Christian Americans — stood on their feet. It is time we told the Supreme Court and the American government that we are not going to stand for their immorality in our land any

more. No more child pornography, no more homosexuality, no more abortions, and no more adulterous and lying government officials.

David Flake  
Bogue Chitto

### MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

Editor:

Had our present convention leaders been alive 150 years ago when slavery was an issue, I wonder if one of them might have made the following quote: "Slavery is not the issue. The issue is the infallibility of the Word of God. I am shamed that Baptist activists would advocate freedom to the point of supplanting the lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of God's infallible Word as expressed in Eph. 6:5." Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board, used similar words defending his actions in The Baptist Record on March 28 (Point/Counterpoint, page two).

The Southern Baptist Convention was formed in 1845 with a commitment to evangelism and missions, based on the promise of the priesthood of the believer — individuals answering only to God according to his call. For years our coalition has carried out the Great Commission and honored him in the process.

To require our missionaries to endorse a creed that has but one purpose is to insult us all. Our leadership has chosen a hill on which to live and die, a hill of doctrinal perspective that in their minds is more important than our commitment to missions and evangelism.

My prayer is that our leaders will realize the path down which they are taking our people. When we discard the fundamental principles on which our convention was founded, we not only destroy the strength of our convention but we also begin a crusade of condemnation where Satan is the ultimate winner.

John Dowdle  
Columbus

### MERE SEPARATION?

Editor:

Have the fires of Hell been extinguished? A former president of the Southern Baptist Convention in a nationally televised sermon casually referred to Hell as a "separation from God." A Baptist preacher and writer wrote, "Hell is where God isn't." In essence, a separation. This seems to be the polite or politically correct description of Hell today.

Hell indeed is a separation from God. People who never accept Jesus have always been separated from God. Separation holds not fear for them. Hell is more than a separation. It is a place of punishment by fire. The Bible says this repeatedly.

I do not claim to be a Bible scholar, but I am a student of the Bible and a believer. I read and listen, and what I read and hear does not always mesh with the truth of the Bible.

Was Jonathan Edwards in his famous sermon, Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God, preaching Hell as a mere separation from God? He preached of a Hell so horrible and only a heartbeat away for unsaved people, that many in the congregation were crying and pleading for him to stop. Preachers of yesteryear preached that Heaven is real and Hell is hot.

I was hesitant to write this letter but felt compelled to do so.

Haskel Stringer  
Bay Springs

### NOT SAME GOD

Editor:

I see where certain denominations are attempting to combine Christian, Jewish, and Islamic verses into one devotional handbook. Well, let me once again emphasize that these three religions do not worship the same god. Christians do not devote their time to Mohammed; neither do we pray to Allah. Muslims do not devote their time to Jesus; neither do they worship Jehovah God. Christians do not sing that Muhammad saves; neither do Jews or Muslims sing Jesus saves.

I believe in the lineage of Isaac, not Ishmael. Jesus is more than a prophet or a good person. He is the Son of Jehovah God and is my Lord and Savior. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob and it seems some professing Christians are doing the same.

It is a shame in the face of God to allow Muslim ministers in to Christian pulpits, which were once dedicated to the furtherance of Christ's teachings and the salvation of lost souls through the blood of Jesus, Jehovah God's only begotten Son. That blood can cleanse all shame and sin.

Charlie Emerson  
Ocean Springs

### DOCTRINAL PARAMETERS

Editor:

In your Point/Counterpoint in the April 18 issue, Rex Yancey wrote that signing the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (BF&M 2000) questions the integrity and careers of our missionaries. Since they previously signed the BF&M 1963, did that question their integrity? As an adjunct professor at New Orleans Seminary, I had to sign a statement that I will not teach contrary to the BF&M 2000 and the seminary Articles of Belief. I did not consider that a question of my integrity, but the seminary ensuring that it works within the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) doctrinal parameters.

adopted statement of beliefs. Was this uproar experienced in 1963 over the then-new BF&M?

Yancey wrote, "...we will not condense the truth of God's Word down to man's interpretation and then insist that everybody conform to it." The BF&M 2000, or the 1963 or 1925 versions, did not reduce God's Word down. They simply categorized our beliefs as a denomination. Accepting these documents is not necessary for salvation or church membership, but they do express the doctrinal parameters within which we will work as a convention. Stating that one does his work within these doctrinal parameters does not "violate their sense of freedom," as Yancey wrote, anymore that signing the BF&M 1963 did.

All SBC agencies must work within its doctrinal parameters. We would not allow a missionary or seminary professor to teach false doctrine. Therefore we need a guideline stating those parameters. We have one approved by the SBC, the BF&M 2000.

Rick Henson, pastor  
Oakdale Church, Brandon

### GOSPEL OR POLITICS?

Editor:

There seems to be a lot of discussion in the press about the signing of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) by missionaries on the field. However, I have yet to read a report of what missionaries on the field are saying.

The biggest question expressed by other International Mission Board missionaries in my area was not whether they should sign the form but how to get the signed form back to Richmond (most of us received it by e-mail). Not a single missionary I know on the field had any reservations about pledging their commitment to work and teach in accordance with and not contrary to the 2000 BFM. Most, including myself, saw it as a further opportunity to affirm our accountability to the millions of Southern Baptist who hold the ropes for us at home through the Cooperative Program.

Confessions are simple statements of our commonly held understandings of Scripture. No individual must affirm these confessions to become a member in one of our churches. Periodically we must revisit and update them to deal with the current issues.

Should we not as Southern Baptist expect and even encourage our missionaries to plant churches that reflect our commonly held beliefs? So much unnecessary attention has been focused on this minor event that we are in danger of losing our focus on reaching people with the Gospel. Are we sharing the Gospel out there or our political views?

Michael Packard  
West Africa



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Ministry to persecuted believers

Acts 12:1-19

By Sandra Gunn

"But prayer!" What a powerful phrase — just two words — in the middle of verse 5 of this passage. Prayer denotes trust. We would never pray, supplicate, plead to someone unless we had a deep sense that the person could somehow answer our prayer. So prayer and trust go hand in hand.

Let us set the stage for this prayer. Jerusalem is where the first Christians had their center, where the apostles were in charge. Peter had already been imprisoned twice, now the third time by Herod the King. Herod wants to please the Jews, so he had James, one of Jesus' inner circle, killed. When Herod saw that the Jews were pleased, he proceeded to imprison Peter — also intending to execute him. Herod was

willing to pay any price for popularity.

Peter's situation seemed hopeless — from a human point of view. Two heavy chains bound him, a soldier sleeping on either side, with other soldiers guarding the door on the outside. There were sixteen soldiers in all who were charged with guarding Peter.

On the night before his execution, we find Peter sleeping soundly — not worried, not afraid of death staring him in the face, but sleeping! This is a wonderful picture of sublime trust in God. Peter was ready to continue his work if God so chose, or ready to meet his Lord.

He might have been the only Christian in the city who was sleeping this night. The church members were making fervent prayer for him. The faith of these Christians had been test-



Gunn

ed. James had already been executed, but they prayed without ceasing. They hung on to God. They did not give up. They kept on praying. In this crisis the church had this one weapon of spiritual power against evil, and they used it.

Man's need gives God the opportunity for blessing. God's angel comes on the scene and a light shines brightly in the prison. Peter was sleeping so soundly that the angel had to strike him on the side to awaken him. Being aroused from a deep sleep, Peter had to be reminded to put on his clothes, shoes, and coat, and to follow the angel. Peter followed, but really thought he was dreaming.

God did many things that Peter could not do — unlocking the cell door, keeping the guards asleep, opening the prison gate, but Peter could put on his own clothes and shoes! God does not always do the unnecessary. He expects us to do the things we can do.

I love the phrase about Peter,

"and when he had come to himself," because it suggests that the truth of what was happening finally dawned on him. It was not a dream.

Although Peter was not like the prodigal son in Luke 15, both of them had come to a place of actually realizing what was happening in their lives. Self plays a larger part in the lives of both sinners and Christians because the former is filled with self, and the latter is used by God to display himself! Before we can come to ourselves, Christ comes to us first.

Peter must have considered all that had just transpired and then made the decision as to what to do next. This is so characteristic of our Lord. He does for us what we cannot do for ourselves, and then we are left to use our own spiritual judgment in the light of his word.

Peter gives God the glory for his deliverance, and goes straight to the place where he knows his fellow believers were gathered. The next event shows us how God never forgets the humblest servant. Here is a slave girl, doing just a small

thing, but yet God puts her name in the Book and records for all time the humble service she gave.

When Peter told the whole story of his experience to these saints gathered at Mary's home, he instructs them to tell it to the rest of the believers. It is always comforting and encouraging to hear over and over the wondrous story of God's deliverance.

It needs to be said that the uplifted hands of intercession match any threat of persecution by an enemy. It also needs to be noted that God doesn't always rescue his people from persecution.

In this one chapter alone we have evidence of that. God does work on behalf of those who trust in him, but his ways are not our ways. All of us have the assurance of God that nothing can happen to any of his own unless he says so! When persecuted, the church has but one effective weapon, and that is to pray earnestly to our God, in whom we trust.

Gunn is a member of First Church, Biloxi.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Use God's full armor

Ephesians 6:10-20

By Robin Brumfield

This lesson is about the spiritual armor that God provides for Christians to be victorious against the forces of evil.

Some Christians try to stand in their own strength against the devil and his evil forces. They do this either out of spiritual ignorance or arrogance.

Some believers either do not know about the armor, or they do not think they need to use the spiritual equipment God has for them. As a result they are not prepared to fight Satan, and they fall prey to his schemes.

Believers need to avail themselves of the help God provides so they can be victorious against the forces of evil.

The passage is broken into four sections. The first section instructs believers to be strong (v. 10). The words "be strong" could be translated "be strengthened."

Paul reminded these Christians they needed more strength than they had in themselves. They also had to realize that they needed the strength that only comes from God. The application for today is that God strengthens Christians who rely on him and his power.

The second section instructs believers to stand their ground (vv. 11-13). To be able to stand one's ground God provides the "armor of God" (v. 11).

The terms "rulers" and



Brumfield

"spiritual forces of evil" in verse 13 emphasize the spiritual nature of the struggle that Christians face. Paul admonished these Christians to use the full armor of God. Believers should declare they need all the various pieces because of the spiritual nature of their struggle.

The main application of this section is that a Christian's only hope in the terrific, unseen struggle with the forces of evil is to use the resources God provides.

The third section instructs believers to check their equipment (vv. 14-18). The different pieces of Roman armor are important, but of more importance is the resources they represent.

God makes these resources available to each and every believer. For example, the shield represents overcoming temptations and trials by faith.

It is also important to observe that "the sword of the Spirit" in verse 17 is the only offensive weapon mentioned. Therefore, Christians are to use God's Word, not the weapons of the world, to fight in their struggle against evil. This implies that believers should memorize key verses and quote them to themselves during a spiritual battle.

Verse 18 emphasizes the fact that Christians find the power to withstand evil through prayer. Paul described each piece of the full armor of God. Paul then described the resources God has made available to Christians so they can be victorious against the forces of evil.

To apply this to today, Christians need to know the pieces of armor and the purpose of each to be victorious against Satan.

The fourth section instructs believers to pray for others (vv. 9-10). This request for

prayer shows the error of the somewhat popular view that Paul was arrogant and that he was not afraid when faced with opportunities to present the gospel. Paul was quite humble and sometimes stated his fears which is seen here and in other passages (Phil. 1:19-20; 2 Thess. 3:1).

The major emphasis of this section is that Paul asked these Christians to use on his behalf one of the resources God has provided. The resource Paul talked to them about was the power of prayer. Paul did this not merely as a way of applying what he had just written, but also as a way of showing them that he needed and used these resources.

The application for today is that all Christians, regardless of their maturity, need to use all the resources God provides so they can be victorious against Satan and the forces of evil.

Brumfield is interim pastor of Goodwater Church, Forest.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbc.org.



## Retreats set for 'wounded ministers'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Wounded Ministers Retreats are designed to assist hurting and discouraged ministers and spouses experience hope and restoration. The retreats offer a safe and confidential environment in which individuals are able to process personal and professional concerns. In order to assist individuals in this process, large- and small-group experiences take place, as well as individual and couple counseling, which is provided.

The retreats are sponsored by the LeaderCare ministry of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. The final retreats in 2002 will be held at LifeWay Conference Center — Ridgecrest, Nov. 11-15; and Acadian Baptist Center, Eunice, La., Sept. 16-20. Activities begin on Monday at 4 p.m. and conclude on Friday at 10 a.m.

To request an application, contact the LeaderCare toll-free helpline at (888) 789-1911 or e-mail woundedministers@lifeway.com. For further questions regarding the retreats, contact Dallas E. Speight at (615) 251-2843 or dallas.speight@lifeway.com.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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UIK LPSF DPSOO ZF WKI-  
UZF S GSA, ZU PB  
DPSOO VSZA FPB LPIOB  
LIKOT, SAT OIDB PZD ILA  
DIMO?

GSKC BZVPF: FPZKFN-DZJ

Clue: K = R

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Twelve: Forty-Eight.

# Depression, firings top calls to LeaderCare

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — When Barney Self gets a call in the middle of the night, his heart doesn't thump out of his chest. He figures it's a distressed pastor, and he knows he must remain calm.

"When a person actually picks up the phone and calls the 1-888 help line number, he or she has exhausted all the other resources out there," said Self, a licensed family and marriage therapist and LeaderCare counselor for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

LeaderCare, a ministry to ministers and their families, is designed to provide personal development resources as well as crisis prevention, intervention, and restoration resources. Among the services it offers is a 911-type helpline, (888) 789-1911, for ministers and their families.

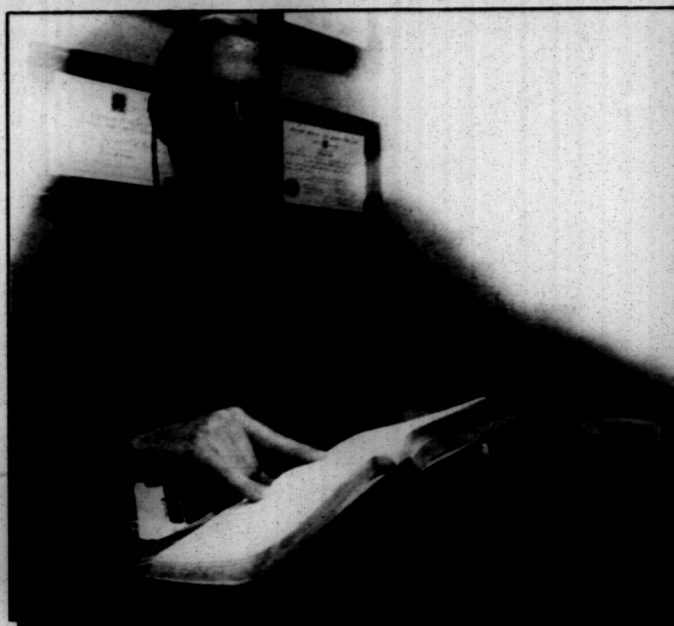
Many of the calls Self gets are from pastors who have been forcibly terminated, "but I get calls from pastors' wives, education ministers, deacons from time to time, even support staff people at church who have to deal with autocratic leaders. I get calls from all manner of church staff people."

Self, who is on 24-hour call, said he answers each one. "I don't miss a call. When we go out shopping, I take the cell phone with us. I've stood in department stores returning phone calls to hurting pastors."

In the eight-month period from September through April, 383 people have called LifeWay's helpline asking for some kind of mental relief. Of the calls, 65 were from pastors who were forced out of their jobs; 101 were from people suffering from depression; 98 wanted more information about LifeWay's Wounded Ministers Retreat; 62 had marital problems; 22 had addiction issues; and 35 had some other type of conflict within the church.

By far, Self said, pastors who have been forced out of their positions are among the most traumatic cases he hears.

"It's just awful when a pastor is forced out of his job and encounters massive



Self

amounts of trauma," Self said. "[T]hey don't just lose a job like you or I would. They don't just lose their ministries; they lose their house, their church, their friends. Often their families are uprooted."

Even in the best situations, when they are treated well by state convention officials and find another job in a short amount of time, "they get the reject stamp right on their forehead, and it doesn't wash off easily. There is a negative component to being forcibly terminated."

In the worse circumstances, Self said the move is life-altering "in the negative sense that causes people to go into all manner of traumatic outcomes that includes physical problems as a result of massive amounts of stress. Some people leave the ministry. Some leave by taking their own lives."

Self said pastors are terminated for many reasons, including affairs, embezzlement, mishandling of church resources, mishandling of their own lives that keeps

them from functioning effectively as a minister, and personality conflicts — and many deserve to be fired, he acknowledged.

"Even if church members conclude they can't live with their pastor, they still need to be redemptive," Self said. "There are some vindictive churches out there who will pollute the pastor's chances of getting another church by sending messages or letters to the church. There's no place in Scripture for that."

In fact, if a church body is to heal from the wounds of forcing out their pastor, forgiveness and redemption are part of that process, Self said.

"Healing comes from being able to get along, so that calling the next minister becomes a part of the healing. A church has to be a safe place for worship to take place unfettered."

Self said when a pastor calls him, the best he can do "is hear their pain. I hear their trauma and concern, and I respond by validating their pain is real."

He also lets them know they don't deserve the level of trauma they are experiencing. "They may deserve some punishment, but not this level of gut-wrenching trauma they have encountered, especially when there has been an equally inappropriate response by the church body to be vengeful and hurtful."

Self's biggest task, he said, is to get the pastor to forgive himself.

"I think if they forgive themselves, it honors God. When we ask God for forgiveness, we get it. Bang. It's a done deal for him but for us, it's a process. There is no place for condemnation. God doesn't do it."

A minister's wife, Self noted, does not escape the situation of forced termination unscathed either. "We've discovered the wives of ministers are very often wounded more deeply than the ministers," he said.

## Tips offered on how to avoid 'compassion fatigue'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Being a caregiver himself, Barney Self, a licensed family and marriage therapist and LeaderCare counselor for LifeWay Christian Resources, knows the causes and symptoms of a malady he calls "compassion fatigue."

Generally, it is caused when one has become so involved in providing care to others that they become emotionally and spiritually exhausted, he said.

"A caregiver is always at risk of compassion fatigue," he said. "For everybody who does caregiving, there is a threat of burning out. Our only protection is our willingness to be honest with ourselves about what our level of health is."

Self, who maintains a private counseling practice, said one way he handles potential burnout is by refusing to counsel people on Fridays or weekends, unless it is a dire emergency.

"If I get a call on the help line and someone says they have a problem, but it can wait until Monday, then I usually don't call them until Monday. But if they don't give an option, I'll call back as soon as I can."

Saying he also avoids movies, Self noted, "I can't get

all wrapped up in the emotions of movies. I have to save my compassion for real situations."

Maintaining healthy friendships and keeping an open line of communication with his wife are other ways he seeks to avoid compassion fatigue. "I

maintain an open awareness with my wife on where I am. Self-awareness is really huge, especially for us weird therapist types."

While Self said he sometimes cries when he hears the pain of others, he acknowl-

edges he can be no help to them if he is overwhelmed by their circumstances.

"You can't hear other people's pain without being affected by it. If you aren't affected, that's a true sign of compassion fatigue," he pointed out.

Barney Self, LeaderCare counselor for LifeWay Christian Resources lists symptoms of compassion fatigue as including:	Abandonment Isolation	Eating on the run or alone Compulsive buying Gambling Lethargy Workaholicism Distance from friends Nicotine
<b>PHYSICAL</b> Fatigue Physical depletion/exhaustion Sleep difficulties Somatic problems (headaches, colds, flu, ulcers)	Interpersonal Perfunctory communication with others Inability to concentrate on tasks Withdrawal from church members Loss of church membership Loss of church income	<b>REFRESHERS</b> Storytelling Hearing others' healing stories Music (appropriate types) Hearing stories outside the caregiving realm Meditation Guided imagery Exercise Spa treatments Sauna Massage Relaxation Sleeping in Time alone Time with family Time with friends Time with prayer/ Time with healthy (relationships)
<b>EMOTIONAL</b> Irritability Anxiety Depression Guilt	Disorder Guilt Processed negative emotions Loss of self Eating disorders Alcoholism Drug use Sexual abuse Sexual harassment Sexual exploitation	
<b>BEHAVIORAL</b> Aggression Callousness Pessimism Defensiveness Cynicism		
<b>WORK-RELATED</b> Quitting the job Poor work performance		